

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2005**

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<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative from 10/04</b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
John Rude, Chair	P	3	1
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Agnes Burrows	A	1	3
Mark Hartman	P	2	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	4	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	3	1
Jim LaBate	P	3	1
David McNulty	P	1	1
Timothy Nast	P	2	2
Michael Natale	P	4	0
Victoria Pisto-Revier	A	2	2
Joe Shover	P	4	0
Shirley Small	P	2	2
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	2	2

**Staff Present**

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director  
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Ernest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Laura Marsh, Secretary  
Jamie Opperlee, Recording Clerk

**Guests**

Wayne Alexander, Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee Co-Chair  
John Lynch, Tropics United Cricket Club

**Call to Order**

Chair Rude called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hartman pointed out that the January minutes did not reflect his attendance.

**Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2005 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Introduce New Member**

Mr. McNulty introduced himself and stated he had been on the Marine Advisory Board for two years. He was born in England and had lived in the U.S. since 1977. He had worked as an engineer in the U.S. and Zambia and had been working with Merrill Lynch for the past 22 years.

#### **1. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Festival**

**Phil Thornburg**

Mr. Thornburg introduced Mr. Wayne Alexander, Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee Co-Chair.

Mr. Alexander thanked the City, the City Manager, Commissioner Moore and City staff for their support of the Festival. He also thanked Parks and Recreation employees and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department for their assistance.

Mr. Alexander explained that the King Celebration Committee was an independent, fully volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. Their mission was to celebrate and promote the ideals and visions of Dr. King through celebration, advocacy and education. Mr. Alexander stated that primarily funding was provided through corporate sponsors and grants.

The Committee had organized the King Parade and Festival for the past two years. This year's festival was held in conjunction with the City's rededication of Carter Park and had attracted over 12,000 attendants.

The Committee also conducted an annual Dr. King essay and spoken word contest, a gala at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and a memorial service on the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination at the African American Research Library.

Mr. Alexander requested the Advisory Board recommend to the City Commission to continue its support of the Dr. King Parade and Festival by donating in-kind services and materials. In addition, Mr. Alexander requested the Advisory Board support the plan to move the Dr. King Celebration back to Holiday Park as well as provide active involvement and input.

Mr. Hoysgaard noted how difficult it was to navigate through the Festival when it was held at Carter Park. Dr. Hays agreed it should be held at Holiday Park; she felt this location was more central and would make the event more inclusive.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to recommend to the City Commission that the City provide some sponsorship for the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Alexander clarified that the City waived approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 in costs for this year's Festival.

## **2. Recreation of the Month**

**Steve Person**

Mr. Person explained that Mr. Lynch had approached Parks and Recreation about finding a site where cricket could be played. The league was originally located at Carter Park and then moved to Croissant Park due to park improvements. Mr. Person suggested to Mr. Lynch that he come before the Advisory Board and talk about the program.

Mr. John Lynch of the Tropics United Cricket Club explained that Cricket originated in England. The game is played in Australia, India, Pakistan and all English-speaking Caribbean countries. The league has approximately 32 teams, and in the past 5 years, the Parks Department had managed to accommodate them wonderfully.

Mr. McNulty asked if Ft. Lauderdale had been considered as a host location for last year's World Cricket Championship. Mr. Lynch responded that the reason Ft. Lauderdale had not been selected was due to immigration issues.

Mr. Natale asked for the definition of the term "sticky wicket". Mr. Lynch explained that a "sticky wicket" occurs when the carpet-like center of the cricket field becomes wet and this makes play difficult.

Mr. Lynch stated that Broward County was building a stadium at the corner of 441 and Sunrise.

Mr. Lynch presented plaques to:

- The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department, which was accepted by Chair Rude,
- Willie Arnett, City of Fort Lauderdale Department of Parks and Recreation Foreman, which was accepted by Mr. Thornburg on behalf of Mr. Arnett
- Steven Person, City of Fort Lauderdale Recreation Superintendent.

## **3. "How Cities Use Parks to Help Children Learn"**

**Phil Thornburg**

Mr. Thornburg distributed copies of this article to the Board.

Dr. Hays stated that she wanted to share this article with the Education Advisory Board.

### **Other Items of Interest**

#### **Follow up on Cigarette Butt Beach Litter**

Mr. Thornburg directed the Board's attention to two handouts:

- Copies of state litter law
- Copies of Tybee Island beach rules (sent by Mr. Moran)

Mr. Thornburg noted that in Section (a) of the state law, tobacco products were included in the definition of "Litter" and the fine for littering was \$50.

Mr. Thornburg said he told Mr. Moran he was a bit disappointed because Mr. Moran had supplied only one city ordinance as a reference and Mr. Thornburg felt Mr. Moran had led the Board to believe that there was considerable legislation on this issue. Dr. Hays wanted to ask Mr. Moran for additional ordinances with specific information regarding cigarette butt litter.

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the City was about to begin trial usage of "Butt Bags," which are personal-sized, biodegradable bags for all types of trash on the beach. The use of these bags will work in conjunction with the recycling containers, which will be placed on the beach. The beach maintenance crews would monitor the use of the bags.

#### **Barrier Island Recycling**

Chair Rude confirmed with Ms. Medalie that the barrier island in Fort Lauderdale had no recycling program. Dr. Hays felt they should ask the City Commission to consider a recycling program on the barrier island.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to urge the City Commission to extend the recycling program to the beach and barrier island. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Sites for Possible Purchase for Parks in Ft. Lauderdale**

Mr. Thornburg stated that the following sites were being considered for purchase as part of the County's Equity Challenge:

- The Dolphin Isles Neighborhood Park on Northeast 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
- Pine Crest School property on Northeast 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, east of Dixie
- Harbordale Park at Miami Road and Southeast 18<sup>th</sup> Court

On March 17, Fort Lauderdale and other cities would be vying to spend approximately \$8 million for park land acquisition. There were five pieces of property the City will request the Land Advisory Board recommend to the County Commission for purchase:

- The Marina Mile Park – SR 84 just east of 95

- The Holiday Park addition
- The Provident Park addition
- “Downtown Park”, surface parking lots at 300 West Broward Boulevard
- South Middle River Park, Northeast 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue just north of Sunrise Boulevard

#### **Plaque for Larry Hayes**

Mr. Natale announced that the plaque for Larry Hayes would be dedicated on Friday, Feb. 25 at 11:00 a.m. in Civic Peoples Park located on Riverland Road, just east of 441.

#### **Beach Grills**

Mr. Hoysgaard asked Mr. Thornburg about the progress of replacing the grills at the beach. Mr. Thornburg stated that they were still being installed. He was unsure how many grills would ultimately be installed.

#### **Floyd Hull Stadium Cleanup**

Mr. Nast thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the volunteer efforts put together to help clean up the stadium.

#### **City-owned Land Cleanup**

Dr. Hays announced that on March 12 a cleanup project of city-owned properties would occur in the Sunrise area of Durrs, Dorsey Riverbend and Home Beautiful Park neighborhoods.

#### **Re-opening of Carter Park**

Dr. Hays stated she was very impressed with the improvements at Carter Park; she felt it would be a great facility for the area. Mr. Thornburg announced that Commissioner Moore would present his State of the District speech at Carter Park on March 16 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Coral Ridge Country Club**

Mr. Thornburg explained that there had been concern about possible development at the Coral Ridge Country Club site. Commissioner Teel had noted to Mr. Thornburg that she was monitoring the situation and Mr. Thornburg would keep the Board apprised.

#### **Waterway Cleanup**

Chair Rude announced that the Waterway Cleanup would take place on Saturday, March 12 at thirty sites throughout Broward County. Additional information could be found at:

[www.waterwaycleanup.org](http://www.waterwaycleanup.org)

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

### **Handouts**

1. Copy of article, "*How Cities Use Parks to Help Children Learn*"
2. Copies of State Statute regarding litter
3. Copies of Tybee Island beach ordinance from Mr. Moran
4. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterway Cleanup flyer